

SHORT OUTS

Story & Art by

**Usamaru
Furuya**

SHORT CUTS

SHORT CUTS VOLUME 2

STORY & ART BY USAMARU FURUYA

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Cute!

I'VE
WANDERED
INTO A
REALLY
STRANGE
WORLD.



IT
LOOKS
LIKE
TOKYO...
BUT
SOME-
THING
ABOUT
IT'S...
WEIRD.
I
MEAN...



ALL THE
GIRLS
ON THE
STREETS,
THEY
HAVE
DIFFERENT
HAIRCUTS...
BUT THEIR
FACES
ARE
ALL THE
SAME.



THEY'RE
CUTE,
BUT IT'S
LIKE THEY'RE
CLONES OR
SOMETHING.

HUM?



WHAT'S
HAPPENING
TO MY FACE?



OH MY
GOD!



I'M
TURNING
INTO
ONE
OF
THEM!



I
GET
IT...

I
MUST'VE
WANDERED
INTO
SOME-
ONE'S
FANTASY
WORLD!



YOU
KNOW?
IT KINDA
RELEASED
ME OUT
AT FIRST.

YEAH,
I KNOW
ME
TOO.

Here
we go!
It's
Short
Cuts,
Vol. 3!



CUT-2







WHO EVER
THOUGHT
JAPANESE GIRLS
WOULD SHOW
LIKE THIS,
TERAKA-SAN?

IT'S
AMAZING,
GAKU-
SAN!



CHILDREN
THESE
DAYS GET
SO MUCH
MORE
POUNCE
THAN WE
EVER DID,
TERAKA-
SAN.

I TELL
YOU,
GAKU-
SAN, IT
SURE IS
DIFFER-
ENT
FROM
OUR DAY.



BEING
PUNTED EVERY
DAY LOSES ITS
THRILL AFTER
A WHILE.
WOULDN'T YOU
SAY, TERAKA-
SANT?

YOU
SAID
IT,
GAKU-
SAN.



THE
OTHER
DAY,
WHEN I
SCOLD-
ED MY
DAUGH-
TER...
WELL, I
ALMOST
DIED!

I
HATE
YOU
DAD!!



BEING A
PARENT
JUST
ISN'T
WHAT IT
USED TO
BE,
TERAKA-
SAN.

UH...
TERAKA-
SANT?



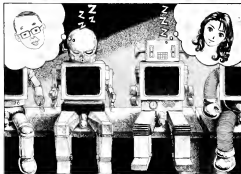
MAKE WAY
FOR THE
YOUNG
OR GET
CRUSHED...
IT'S
INEVITABLE,
I SUPPOSE.













CUT-11



IT'S THEM AGAIN!

THAT WAS THE FIRST!

HI EVERYBODY!

YES! IT'S NOT!

WHY ON EARTH DO THEY COME HERE?



50,000!

I'LL DO IT FOR 30,000!



MR. PRIME MINISTER, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TELL YOU THIS--

WHAT!?

THIS ISN'T WHAT YOU MEANT BY "FOREIGN AID"?





16TH-CENTURY
ROME

THE
SIX FINE
CHAPEL

CUT-13



HOW IS
THE WORK
PROGRESS-
ING?

IT IS NEAR
COMPLET-
TION, YOUR
HOLINESS.



WHAT...

...IN
HEAVEN'S
NAME?!



THE
THEME IS
"ROMANCE
AND
HEARTACHE
OF
YOUTHFUL
LOVE."

I MUST
INSIST
IT BE
REDONE
ENTIRELY.



WHAT?
WHAT?
WHAT?

THE
THEME IS NOT
APPRO-
PRIATE
FOR A
PLACE OF
WORSHIP!



WHY
CAN'T HE
APPRE-
CIATE
WHAT I'VE
DONE?

HE WAS
A GENIUS.
HOWEVER,
HIS
STYLE OF
PAINTING--
HOW SO PREVALENT
IN
JAPANESE
ANIMA-
TION--CUD
NOT FIND
ACCEPT-
ANCE IN
16TH-CENTURY
ROME.



Michelangelo's
"The Last Judgment"
The Sistine Chapel

HIS
WORK
WAS 300
YEARS
AHEAD
OF ITS
TIME.
THEY
SAID THE
WORK
WE SEE
TODAY IS
NOTHING
MORE
THAN
A QUAT
DOODLE.



THEIR FIRST DATE

SORRY
TO KEEP
YOU
WAITING!

WOAH!

THAT'S
A
PRETTY
AMAZING
OUTFIT.

CUT-15





DEFENSE DEPARTMENT,
COUNTRY A

HOW'S IT
COMING
ALONG?

THEY'RE
READY
FOR
DEPLOYMENT
AT ANY TIME,
SIR.

EXCEL-
LENT...

COUNTRY A
HAD AN
ELITE
CORPS SO
FORMIDABLE
IT COULD
BE CALLED
THE
ULTIMATE
WEAPON
UNIT ONE,
AKA THE
BLUE
BERETS!

CUT-17

THEIR
TRAINING
WAS
BRUTAL
IN THE
EXTREME.

SOLDIERS
ENDURED
THE
DISCI-
PLINE
FOR FIVE
LONG
YEARS.

ALL WE HAVE
TO DO IS
SEND THEM
BEHIND ENEMY
LINES...
AND THEN
REMOVE
THEIR
CHARITY
BELTS.

ALL THAT
PENT-UP
YOU KNOW
WHAT WILL
EXPLODE ALL
OVER THE
PLACE...

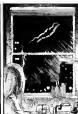
TALK
ABOUT
REPELLING
ENEMY
FORCES!

THEIR
BELTS
AREN'T
ALL
THAT'S
BUILT!

Kablop

Wah
hah











HEY!



SOME-
ONE
DROPPED
THEIR
PURSE.



GEE,
WHAT
SHOULD
I
DOOO-
DOOP

TURN
IT IN?
OR
JUST
KEEP
IT?



*Be a
good girl,
Mai!
Take it to
the
police.*

**Keep it.
Mai!
Keep it!!**

GAAAH!
**IT'S THE
ANGEL AND
THE DEVIL
IN ME!**

CUT-2!



CLOSE
YOUR
EYES
SHUT
YOUR
MOUTH
PLAYE
THE
GUESS-
TOWN

**IT'S
THE
BUDDHA
IN ME!**



SHAKE
THE
CONTENTS
WITH ALL
THE
WORLD

**IT'S
THE
SHIVA
IN ME!**



1872--
THE FIRST
LOCOMOTIVE
IN JAPAN
BEGAN
RUNNING
BETWEEN
SAKURAWA
AND
YOKOHAMA.

DO YOU
TRULY
BELIEVE
THIS MASS
OF STEEL
CAN MOVE?

UNBELIEV-
ABLE!

AD-GALS OF THE
19TH CENTURY

YOU
SORRY,
WORTH-
LESS
PILE OF
METAL!!

YOU'RE
LOWER
THAN
THE BOLTS
USED TO
HOLD DOWN
TOILETS!!

YOU
MAKE
ME
SICK!!
I'M
TURNING
YOU ALL
INTO
SCRAP!!

UGH

UGH

UGH

UGH

UGH

IT'S
REALLY
MOVING!!

THE
ARRIVAL
OF THE
SAMURAI
TRAIN
SIGNALED
THE
DAWN
OF THE
RAILROAD
AGE.

PURE COFFESHOP
"WHISPERING WIND"



PURE COFFEE-SHOP!!



WHAT'S SO PURE ABOUT IT?



HI THERE!

NICE TO SEE YA!



CHECK OUT THAT GIANT BOW TIE!



MISTER NORTH WHO IS WHISPERING A TUNE TODAY!



BUT SPRINGS JUST AROUND THE CORNER! THE SEASON OF LOVE, GIRLS!



A REAL LIVE "MASTER"!





CAME SOLE
CYCH-
SANG

DRAL
BALUCY



HEE
HEE
HEE
...

WILL
LOOK AT
YOURSELF,
KROO-
SAN...
WITH
YOUR
GAM-
GURU?

KEEPIN'
UP, HEH
HEH.



HEH,
LOOK
OVER
THERE.

IT'S
TOMBER-
SAN.



ALWAYS
LOONNY
REAL
GOOD
WITH
MID
LONG
HAIR.

YOU
SAID IT!
HAIR
HAIR!



HEY!

AIN'T YOU
FORGOT
SOME-
BODY?

GRAB!



"SMALL-
FACE" IS
THE LATEST
BAGG, GIRLS.

LOOKS LIKE
YOU JUST
FORGOT TO
PUT IN YOUR
DENTURES,
GRAB.

ALL'S
WELL,
AS
ALWAYS,
IN
SARLUM
RELAQUE.

HEY,
GORGEOUS!

WANNA
HAVE
SOME
FUN?

CUT-25

MY BOY-
FRIEND
HAD
JUST
DUMPED
ME, AND
I WAS
IN A
MURKY
MOOD.

LET'S
DO
SOME-
THING
THAT
FEELS
REAL
GOOD.

AT THAT
MOMENT,
I DIDN'T
CARE
ABOUT
ANY-
THING.

SURE,
WHY
NOT?

CAN I
CARRY
THAT
FOR
YOU?

OHAY,
YOU CAN
CARRY
NOW!

PLEASE HELP
STARVING
CHILDREN
AROUND THE
WORLD!

YOU GOTTA
LOVE
YOURSELF
MORE...

LEAVE
ME
ALONE...

GOIN' A
LITTLE LOSE



WHASGA-
BATTIA,
BAI-
CHAN? YOU
HAVE TO
PEEP?

NO...
I'M
FINE...

CUT-27

HEIGHT
4' 11",
WEIGHT
143...

...
BUST
36L

DID YOU
GAIN
WEIGHT,
BAI-CHAN?

A LITTLE,
I GUESS...

WOW!
LOOK AT
SASAKI-
BAI!

SHE'S
SO SLIM
AND
PRETTY...

NO WONDER
THE GUYS'RE
ALL CRAZY
ABOUT HER!

YEAH...

LET'S SEE
WHO'S
GONNA BE
POPULAR
WITH THE
GUYS!!

UWA...

I'M
OVER
MY
COLD
....

WHAAT?!!
BUT I MADE
FRIENDS AND
EVERYTHING!!

OH,
WHAHAHA
....



IMAI!

I AM
MESMERIZED
BY YOU!
MY EYEBALLS
ARE READY
TO BURST!
KYEEE!

CUT-281

UH...
YEAH?



THIS IS MY IMAI
DOLL, MERSHON
3. IT'S MY
JAIL-OFF TOY.

UGH...



A
POW!
A HYAH
TO YOU!
LISTEN!



THE JUICES IN MY BRAIN
ARE OVERFLOWING AND
MY MENSTRUAL BLOOD
WON'T STOP AASH
I WANT YOUR SEVEN.
SHINGO IMAI! TAKE ME
NOW. RAVISH ME!!

HEY,
WAIT
A...



I PLASTERED
IT ALL
OVER TOWN.

GAK!



NO,
MISADDAKA
SAY?

WHA...
HUMP?

WHAT
DO
YOU
SAY?



WHY COULDN'T
YOU JUST...
ASK HOW OUT?

I WANTED
TO MAKE
A STRONG
IMPRES-
SION...

SCOOP!!

Pix of
Super-
popular
Dancer
SETSUKO
in Her
Race
Queen
Days!!!!



*Setsuko in checkered flig that sets
hearts racing! What a boot!*



*Her show biz debut
came with her
selection as a
"Glam'ron Girl" (above).
Now she's jockeying
with Koji of Luke Moon!*

OMIGOD,
THIS IS
ROMA?!

NOW



Vocal-
ize
rock band
Luke
Moon's
vocalist
KOJI
in his
teen-idol
days!



How many girls cried over you, Romeo?

GAWD,
DAD?!

NOW

THIS
MEANS

WHEN I
GROW
UP...



The Great
Lovers' Life
Way!

AND, MY FAVORITE
Character-actor
I MAY BE...



YAAAY!

THANK
GOD!

?



AM-CHIN
THINKS
BOTH HER
PARENTS
ARE WAY
BETTER-
LOOKING
NOW.



CUT-31

SONOMI
AGE?

ISSN A
WHILE!



"MY DREAM"
WHEN I GROW
UP, I WANT TO
BE LIKE DALI,
AND MUNCH AND
DIX AND--



--TARO OKAMOTO
AND HIDEO AZUMA
AND SWANKMAJER
AND KAZUO UMEZU
AND MIKE KELLY
ALL IN ONE!



OHAY, I WANT TO BE
LIKE DALI AND MUNCH
AND DIX AND TARO
OKAMOTO AND HIDEO
AZUMA AND SWANKMAJER
AND KAZUO UMEZU AND
MIKE KELLY ALL PUT
TOGETHER

**IN A FLOWER
SHOP!!**











CUT-35

GOOD
MORNING!

MAI-
CHAN...

YOU'RE
BACK TO
NORMAL...

SORT
OF...



YES!
HAVE YOU
DISCOVERED
OUR CRE-
ATOR YET?

SHE
SOUNDS
LIKE SOME
KIND OF
RELIGIOUS
AUT...

HE IS A SPLEN-
DID, HANDSOME
PERSON WORTHY
OF GREAT
RESPECT!

SHE'S
BEEN
SOON
WISHED BY

SUCH...A...
SPLEN...DID...
PER...
SON...

SHE'S
LOSING
IT!



GAHKD...
GET AWAY,
HURRY!

MAI-
CHAN!

THE
REAL
MAI-
CHAN!

YOU HAVE TO
ESCAPE...
BEFORE YOU'RE
SEEN...
GAHK!!

OH, NO!
MAI-
CHAN!

THE NEXT DAY

CREATOR?
OH,
I'M OVER
THAT NOW.

YOU
MADE A
DEAL,
DIDN'T
YOU?

CUT-36



WHY ARE YOU
TWEAK-
ING ME
THESE?



Keep
your
valuables
safe with
the Little
Lolita
Storage
Safe!

W 19,800
I 800
878 5555



TIME TO
GET
UP!

Can't
get
out of
bed
in the
morning?



COME
ON,
YOU'LL
BE
LATE.



Have
any
dreams
that
raise
your
sheets?

WOW,
THAT'S
A BIG ONE!

How
high
was
the
bed?



IF YOU
WAKE
UP...
I JUST
RIGHT
GIVE
YOU A
BLOW-
JOB!

Don't
worry...
You'll
never
be late
again!



I'M
UP!

SEE...
I KNOW
YOU
COULD
DO IT!



GLOMP



Boner's
gone,
you're
ready to
go! It's
Wake-up
Call Girl
Al-chan!

MAN,
THAT AD
TOTALLY
LIED...

© 2000
Shueisha
Inc.





WHAT'S
THAT
NOISE?



A B-
BEAR



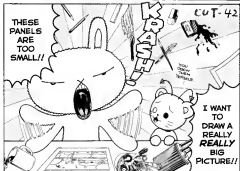
PLANN
ARE
YOU
OKAY??
HEY??













CUT-43

TOO TIRED
FROM CUT-42
TO DRAW
ANYTHING

HEY,
LOOK
AT
THAT
GUY.

THUNDER

GIRL GIRL

BEOW,
GROSS.

A man
crouching
off
the D.

GIRL

SUPER REAL

CLOSE UP
OF D—

? BLOOD VESSELS
PUFFING OUT

HERE
GIRLS
WANT
TO TOUCH?

DEEE!
GO
AWAY

PLEASE
GO
AWAY!

HEY!
LEAVE
US
ALONE!

MAN
APPROACHES
WHILE
STOCKING
THE D—

GIRL

Frightened
GIRL

Angry
GIRL

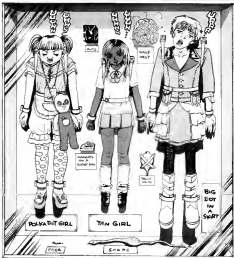
**RECOVERED
STRENGTH.
WILL DRAW
LAST PANEL
PROPERLY.**

COME
ON,
HE
WON'T
BITE
YOU.

MOOO!
I HATE
CHEWJAWNS!

Look, there
BLOOD-POOF!

HEY,
SHE
SAID
"GO
AWAY"!
NOW
BEAT
IT!!



MY SUMMER
SCIENCE
PROJECT WAS
"INTERESTING
CREATURES
I FOUND IN
NARAJUKU"!!



SONOCHI-
CHAN!
LET
THEM GO
IMMEDIATE-
LY!



THE ZAPS
ARE
SOOOO
CRAZY....



HEY, HONEY.....
AM I MISSING
THINGS, OR IS
ONE OF THEM
ACTUALLY A
MONSTER...?

OH
REALLY,
DEAR....



THAT'S
WHAT
THEY
CALL
"OFF-
BEAT"...

HAHAH...



BUT,
WELL....
DIDN'T
IT SEEM
TO YOU...



THAT
OUR
DAUGH-
TER'S
STARTING
TO LOOK
LIKE
THAT...?

OH, THEY'RE
SO EASILY
INFLUENCED
AT THAT AGE.



HAHAH...
YEAH,
BUT...

I'M
SURE IT'S
JUST A
PHASE...



HEE
HEE ♪



WHAT ARE
YOU DOING,
BOY?



LOOK! WHEN I DO THIS,
IT'S AS IF THEY'RE
SITTING IN THE PALM
OF MY HAND.

OH! I SEE.

CUT-46



I CAN TOUCH
THEM... PINCH
THEM... TICKLE
THEM...
WOO HOO! ♪

IT'S TIME
WE GOT
SERIOUS, SON.



AND NOBODY
COMPLAINS
ABOUT IT!



POOR
MR. PRESIDENT...









STUPID-
LOOK-
ING...

OUT-50





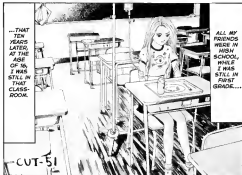
BEHAWD,
YOU STAY
RIGHT
HERE...
UNTIL YOU
FINISH
EVERY-
THING ON
YOUR
TRAY



HEY
HEY
HEY



I HATED
CARROTS
AND MILK
SO
MUCH...



...THAT
TEN
YEARS
LATER,
AT THE
AGE
OF SIX,
I WAS
STILL IN
THAT
CLASS-
ROOM

ALL MY
FRIENDS
WERE IN
HIGH
SCHOOL,
WHILE
I WAS
STILL IN
FIRST
GRADE....

CUT-51



THE
CARROTS
AND
MILK
WERE
RE-
PLACED
EVERY
DAY...



AND I
WAS PUT
ON AN
EY DROP
SO I
WOULDN'T
GET OF
MY NUTRI-
TIONAL

SEE,
THOSE
CLOTHES
ARE
TIGHT...





OH BOB!!
I SURE DON'T
WANT TO END
UP LIKE
HARU-CHAN...



HARU-CHAN
HAD BEEN
SITTING
IN THE
CLASSROOM
FOR OVER
SIXTY-FIVE
YEARS.
SHE
COULDN'T
STAND
POWDERED
SALT
MILK.



I WILL
EAT
THIS!
I WILL!!

BUT THE
HARDEST
I TRIED,
THE
MORE
MY
STOMACH
GALLED
UP AND
REFUSED
TO
COORDINATE.



ANOTHER
TWENTY
YEARS
WENT BY.

HARU-CHAN
PUSHED
AWAY...
AND
I WAS
STILL IN
FIRST
GRADE
AT
THIRTY-
SIX.



ONE
DAY,
WHEN
I'D
ALL
BUT
GIVEN
UP...

HEY!
I CAN
EAT
THIS!



I DID IT!
I'M
DRINKING
THE
MILK!

MY
MY BODY
HAD
CHANGED..
NOW THAT
I WAS
AN ADULT, I
FOUND
I COULD
COORDINATE
BOTH
CARROT'S
AND MILK
WITHOUT
GASING!



SO
YOU
SEE...

I'M THE
REAL
THING--
A BONA-
FIDE
KO-SALU
♡

SEND
ME
SOMEONE
ELSE.



DAWN...

ANOTHER
ELABORATE
LIE SCAMS
FOR
CALL-SALU
MILK...
AGE 44...

TODAY
WE HAVE
SISTERS
AM AND
KANA
AKIZONO
GOING
OUT ON
THEIR
FIRST
ERRAND
EVER.

CUT-52

UHM...
CARROTS
AND
POTATOES
AND
CABBAGE
AND...

WE
FOUND
THE
GRO-
CERY
STORE,
KANA.

UHM...

UHM,
CAR-
ROTS
AND...

I WANT
CHOCO-
LATES!

IT'S
GET-
TING
DARK!
I WANT
HOMY...

STOP
CRYING,
KANA.
WE'RE
ALMOST
HOME.

AM,
YOKA/
THANKS
FOR
BEING
SUCH A
HELPER

IT WAS
READY-
COM-
ING HOME

WHAT
THE
HELL
IS
THIS?!!

BUT YOU
TOLD
US IT
HAD TO
BE A
"PEEPING
CAMERA!"
SR...

MAKO THREW HER HEADBACK & DROPPED DOWN, REVEALING SACRAL DIPPING-HOT PUSKY. HE IMMEDIATELY HUNG HIS THERMOGRAPHIC POLE IN A THE WAY TO THE HILT. "WHA, IT'S AS HOT AS HER LOVE-TUNNEL. MAKE IT HEAT, MAKO! BURN! BURN! BURN!" HE TITTED FURIOUSLY. THEY GRABBED EACH OTHER AND GRABBED EACH OTHER. UNUSUALLY, THESE JUICERS WHOSE NO COATING THEIR BODIES. SUDDENLY, MAKO ARCHED HIS BACK AND A HOT SHOT OF SPERM SHOT OUT. LIKE A GYRON.

CVT-53

"MY FATHER'S JOB"

YOUR
FATHER-FIG
A FINE
GUY.

YUP

Methods

2006

PLEASE,
DEAR,
DON'T CRY
IN FRONT
OF ALL
THESE
PEOPLE





IT'S BEEN
GETTING
SO HOT
LATELY.

CUT-57



THAT'S
HOW I
DECIDED
TO...



...DIT MY
BODY
TAIPTOOD
WITH MY
SCHOOL
UNIFORM!



THIS
WAY, I
CAN
WALK
AROUND
TOWNS
BUCK-
NAKED.



HEY GUYS,
I'M
TALKING
TO YOU
GUYS.

IT'S
AMAZ-
ING
HOW
WELL
IT
WORKS.



AND
CHANG-
ING
FOR
SEX
CLASS
IS A
TOTAL
BREEZE.



GUESS
WHAT?

I TOLD
MY
FRIENDS
ABOUT
IT.

NO
WAY?

IT'S
TRUE!



THEY
ALL
DECIDED
TO
DO IT
TOO.



WARP
ON,
WHY'LL
WE DO
WHEN
WE
GRAD-
UATE?

C'MON,
WE
DON'T
THINK
THAT'S
FAR
AHEAD.
I HEAR
WE'RE
NOT-GAY-ET!









WHAT
IS
THIS
PLACE?

HEY!

CVT-61

WOW!
LOOKIE!



BRAND-
NAME
BAGS
AND
SHOES...

Please
help
yourself!

IT
SAVES
US
CAN
TAKE
THEM!

WOY
O?

HEY,
WHAT'S
GONG
ON?

I'M
STUCK!



HEY,
MYSTERY
HELPS!

WAAAA...
I DON'T
KNOW...
SHOULD
IT?

WE'LL
DO
ANY-
THING
YOU
SAY!

G-G-G-GEE,
DO YOU THINK
IT'LL REALLY
WORK LIKE
THAT ALL THE
TIME, BOSS?

THIS IS
GONNA
BE LL
LIKE
HOT-
CAGES?

WHAT
IS
THIS?

LOOKS
SUSPIC-
IOUS
TO
ME...





MY NAME IS CHENGY.



I'VE BEEN KEPT IN THIS HUMAN-CAGE SINCE BEFORE I CAN REMEMBER.



TIME TO FEED CHENGY?

YEAH, YEAH.



WHAT A PAIN... HERE.

HE USED TO LOVE ME SO MUCH WHEN HE WAS LITTLE...

CUT-62



AND MOM AND DAD ARE SO BUSY WITH THEIR OWN PREENING... THEY DON'T EVEN GIVE ME A GLANCE.



EVERY DAY IS SO DULL AND BORING. I WISH I WAS FREE TO WALK AROUND OUTSIDE.



ONE NIGHT... I HAD A STRANGE DREAM.





OK, LET'S
TURN
TO
PAGE
100.



THIS
PICTURE
OF THE
HORNED
BEETLE
IS JUST
FANTAS-
TIC!



I
WISH I
COULD
MEET
HIM.



HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH



AND HAS NEVER LOST HIS OWN CHILDLIKE WONDER, WHICH MAKES HIM SHINE LIKE A PRECIOUS JEWEL IN THIS SORDID DOG-EAT-DOG WORLD. AND WHEN HE GAZES AT ME WITH THOSE SPARKLING EYES, I... I'D PROBABLY FALL IN LOVE WITH HIM. BUT I HAVE A HUSBAND AND CHILD. I HAVEN'T... BUT THEN HE GETS THE CHANCE OF A LIFE-TIME TO MAKE IT AS AN ARTIST. "COME TO NEW YORK WITH ME!" WHAT SHOULD I DO? I AGONIZE. BUT FINALLY I DECIDE I CAN'T LEAVE MY FAMILY. THEN, TEN YEARS LATER, WE RUN INTO EACH OTHER... OH, HOW ROMANTIC!!





HE'S HURLED
A POWER-
FUL GLOB!



OH-
MY!
WHAT'S
THAT?



COULD
IT...?
YES!

LET'S PUT
SUCH A
TERRIFICOUS
SPIN ON THAT
BALL IT'S
MADNESS...

IT'S
HIS
KO-
GAL
BALL
#3!



HEY,
YOU...
WHAT'S
WITH
THE
HARRY
EYE
BALL?



CUT IT
OUT,
YOU'RE
SCARING
ME,
DAD!



CUT-65



JUST
TRY
TO BE
QUICK!

AND
NO
KISS-
ING, GOT
IT?



PARENT'S
IN ADVANCE.
WATER.
HEY, YOU'RE
KINDA
CUTE UP
CLOSE.



UGH...









WAA,
UH HUH...

YEAH,
REAL-
LY...



I
TOTAL-
LY
KNOW
HOW
YOU
FEEL...



HEY,
THERE'S
GOTTA
BE A
BETTER
PLACE
TO TALK
THAN
THE
TOILET.

C'MON!



I KNOW,
THEY
JUST USE
YOU UP
AND
THROW
YOU OUT...

I SWEAR,
YOU'VE
DEFINITELY
LOST
WEIGHT
SINCE
YESTER-
DAY...

NO
WAY!

NOW
HERA-
HUMA'S
TALKING
TO A
ROLL
OF
TOILET
PAPER...!

CUT: 68



WOW,
I'VE
GONE
OUT
OF
SCHOOL!

THEY'RE
LIKE,
BEST
FRIENDS...



THE
BEST
FRIEND...

That
is!

THEY'RE
PLAY-
ING...



MAJOR,
I'VE
NEVER
SEEN
HERA-
HUMA
SO
HAPPY...

POOR
GIRL. MR.
HAYES HE
OUGHTA
HAVE
FRIENDS
WITH HER...







DEEP
INSIDE AN
ENCHANTED
FOREST
IN
NORWAY...

THE
EXPLORER
FINALLY
CAME
UPON THE
FAIRIES
HE HAD
DEVOTED
TWENTY
YEARS
TO
SEEKING.



CUT-71



RESTRICED
BY THEIR
BETWITCHING
BEAUTY...
HE CROPT
CLOSE TO
THE FAIRIES
IN VIOLATION
OF THE
SACRED
LAW OF THE
FOREST.



I
WONDER
WHAT
THEY'RE
TALKING
ABOUT?



I think this, completely
unknown to me, I want
to know about. And if our
minds are all over the place,
but then we'll have a look
at the forest and see what
it's really about.

What
I want

What I want
to know about
is the forest
and the forest



IT IS SAID
THAT ALL
WHO SAW
A GLIMPSE
OF THE
FAIRIES ARE
DESTROYED...
IN THIS
WILK THE
FOREST'S
MYSTERY IS
PRESERVED...

ANY
PEOPLE
VISIT
THIS
SACRED
SITE,
NEEDING
TO COM-
MUNICATE
WITH THE
DEAD.



THE POWER
TO THE
GRAND SHIN



THIS IS MY
DAUGHTER
MAKI.
SHE'S A
SACRED GIRL,
BUT THAT'S
WHAT'S SO
CUTE ABOUT
HER...

BLIND,
SLOWLY
MOVING
CALLED "WAND"
CHANNEL
SPIRITS
FOR THEM



UNKNOWN
LIFE!
DARKNESS
I'M LIKE
TOTALLY
DUMB - GRAYS
I HAVE A
DUNCE OF
FEELINGS
OVER HERE,
YOU KNOW?



MAKI!!!
IS THAT
YOU?!

CUT-72

I HEAR
GIVE ME
A TOTAL
GRAND!
YOU
UNWAS
SEE HE
SO
MUCH
SO
SHEDD
AND KILL
YOURSELF.
GRAND?



YOU COME AN OLD
FIRST LOVE YOU GETS
TO GO ON LEAVING
ANYHOW WHEN I HAD
TO GO WITH LOVE
MY WHOLE LIFE AHEAD
OF ME, I BELIEVE
IT'S NOT FASH



URSH!



IT'S
MAKI'S
USUAL
SACRED
TALK...
BUT
THERE'S
SOMETHING
BUTLY
REFLECTING
ABOUT
HEARING
IT FROM
THIS OLD
SAG...



CANDY-
CHAMP-
ION
OF
CUTE
THINGS
EVERY-
WHERE



GOOD MORNING!

MY NAME IS SACHINO, AND I WORK AT THIS TRAIN STATION KIOSK.



A CAN OF WARM SWEAT. MAKE THAT ASAKU!

THAT'LL BE TEN THOUSAND YEN.



SUNG GOLD

I SELL HAPPINESS EVERY MORNING!



ONE SLIGHTLY SOUL ROCK, PLEASE.

THAT'S FIVE THOUSAND YEN.

THANKS TO THIS, THESE MEN CAN FACE EACH NEW DAY.



SINCE THE MANDATORY DEATH SENTENCE WAS INTRODUCED FOR SHOPPING A MINOR, THIS IS THE ONLY WAY FOR SALADWEN TO QUENCH THEIR DESIRES ON THEIR WAY TO WORK.



I'M PROUD TO BE A MOSH GIRL. AFTER ALL, WE'RE HELPING TO KEEP TOKYO—IN FACT, ALL OF JAPAN—STAY SAFE AND HAPPY...



THERE'S WHY I'D DIE BEFORE I TOLD ANYBODY THAT THESE PRODUCTS ARE ACTUALLY MADE BY ANOOLP-AGED MEN!

SHORT CUTS

BY TEENS,
FOR TEENS!!

I ALSO GAVE
HAPPYGOAT
STUDENT TO GIVE
HAPPY
GOAT
THEY CAN
ON THE STREET



EVERY
TIME
I WANT
GIRLS
WALKING
IN A
WORLD

HAPPY
GOAT
(STUDENT)



ART BY TAMAKI KOSAKA (16)

LOOK AT
THOSE
SEXY
EYES

CAN'T
TALK
ANY
MORE
ON
THE
STREET



ART BY MURUNE GOSHIKI (17)

THOSE GIRLS LOOK
LIKE THEY'RE DREAMING
BY THAT VERY HIP
HOPPER, SANDY TOMMO
(SHAWDIN)



ART BY WATSURI SASHIDA (16)

GIRLS
DRESSING
FOR
SCHOOL



ART BY HIROYUKI KUNIMUNE (17)

WONDER WHAT'S TROUBLING
HER. YOU CAN TALK TO
UNCLE USAMARU!
CANN'T DANCE! (Singing)



ART BY TORIKO MATSUME (16)

GIRLS
DRESSING
FOR
SCHOOL



GIRLS
DRESSING
FOR
SCHOOL

ART BY SHOMEI OTSUKI (17)

GACK!!



ART BY SHINPEI HANADA (16)







COT-78

THAT
MUST
HAVE
BEEN...
SIXTY
YEARS
AGO
THIS
WINTER...

I'VE BEEN
WATCHING
YOU EVERY
MORNING...
WOULD YOU...
GO OUT
WITH ME?

WHAT?

AKARI
YAMA-
ZAKI!!
...ISN'T
IT?

AT FIRST, I
THOUGHT
IT MUST BE
SOME KIND
OF JOKE.

I MEAN,
AT THE
TIME...

YOU
WERE A
POPULAR
TV
STAR.

THE
NATION'S
SWEET-
HEART!

IT WAS
LIKE A
DREAM...

TO
THINK
THAT
YOU
NOTICED
ME
ON THE
TRAIN
EVERY
MORNING...?

REMEM-
BER
HOW YOU
ALWAYS
DIS-
GUISSED
YOUR-
SELF
FOR OUR
DATES? I
WISHED
I COULD
TELL
THE
WHOLE
WORLD
ABOUT IT!

AH...
THE FIRST
TIME I
SAW YOU
ALICE,
I WAS SO
NERVOUS...

DON'T
LOOK
AT ME
SO
MUCH...

IN FACT,
TOO NER-
VOUS...
BUT YOU
WERE
SO NICE
ABOUT IT,
THOSE
WORDS
MEANT
SO MUCH
TO ME.

IT'S ALL
RIGHT...
IT FEELS
GOOD JUST
TO BE IN
YOUR ARMS
LIKE THIS...



FIVE YEARS LATER, I'D GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY AND FOUND A JOB... AND YOUR ACTING CAREER WAS REALLY TAKING OFF...



WE EVENTUALLY GOT MARRIED... AND HAD CHILDREN, WHILE BOTH DOING WELL IN OUR CAREERS...



TIME JUST SLIPS BY SO FAST WHEN YOU'RE HAPPY, AND NOW OUR GRAND-CHILDREN ARE SUCCESSFUL ADULTS...



BOY, WHAT A LIFE... IT'S JUST ONE GREAT MEMORY AFTER ANOTHER...



LIFE WATCHING A TERRIFIC MOVIE.



I SURE WAS A LUCKY FELLOW.

THANKS TO YOU...

I'VE HAD AN UN-BELIEVABLE LIFE...



DEAD...



YOU'RE ON CANDID CAMERA!



WE GOT-OW!

LOOK, THE CAMERA'S OVER THERE!

I'M SORRY, DEAR!

OOCHHH/ GEEEEE/ WELL, I KNEW IT WAS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!





CUT-81

UC

I NEVER
GET
SCOUTED
ANYMORE
WHEN
I WALK
AROUND
DOWNTOWN.
GIRLS IN
JUNIOR
HIGH AND
GRADE
SCHOOL
ARE ALL
THE WAY
THREE
DAYS.

AT NO,
I'M
PAST MY
SELL-BY
DATE.

AS
GIRLS
GET
YOUNGER
AND
YOUNGER...
SOON
WE'LL BE
SEEING
INFANT
POP
STARS...

BABY LOVE,
MY BABY
LOVE ♪



WHO'LL BE
REPLACED
BY
FUTURES...

DON'T CUT!
MY UMBILICAL
CORD~♪



UNTIL
NEXT
THING
YOU
KNOW,
IT'LL
BE
ONE
UP
THESE

AIM FOR ME!
WHEN YOU
CUM CUM CUM! ♪



BUT
I'M
NOT
GIVING
UP,
I MEAN,
WHERE
DO
ONE
COME
FROM?



IF THIS
FRAND
CON-
TINUES,
PUSSES
WILL BE
NEXT...
MY
TURN
FOR
GLORY!





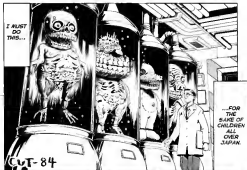
THAT'S
TETSUKO,
MY
ROBOT
SERVANT.
SHE WAS
SET TO
"KO-GEAL
MODE"
SO SHE
COULD
CHAT
WITH ME
ON THE
WAY TO
SCHOOL
AND
BACK.



CUT-83













IF THE WORLD REALLY DOES END IN JULY, WE CAN'T GO TO IDU OVER SUMMER VACATION.

YEAH, BUT WE'LL NEVER HAVE EXAMS AGAIN EITHER.



DRAGON! TALK ABOUT LUCKING OUT!

THAT IS NOT LUCKING OUT.



I DO WANT TO READ-UTE FROM HIGH SCHOOL, THOUGH.

ME TOO.



I WANNA BE AN INTER-PRINTER WHEN I GROW UP...

REALLY? I NEVER KNEW THAT.



ME, I'VE WANTED TO WORK IN DAYCARE SINCE LIKE FOREVER.

WOW... I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU LIKED KIDS, ANEWA!



YOU KNOW, WE'VE NEVER TALKED ABOUT STUFF LIKE THIS BEFORE.

OH... REEAL WHAT'S HAPPENED TO US?



YEAH.

WHO'S GETTING STRONGER...

WAKKA GO RING KARAOKE?

HEY, KARUKA.

HAY?

IT'S PRETTY GREAT TO BE ALIVE, HUNT?

WHAT'S GOT INTO YOU ALL OF A SUDDEN? ...NA. NA...

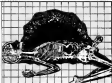




IT WAS IMMEDIATELY CAPTURED AND STUDIED BY SCIENTISTS... WHO MADE A DISCOVERY THAT TURNED CONVENTIONAL SCIENCE ON ITS HEAD!



THE PART THAT WAS ASSUMED TO BE THE ANIMAL'S HEAD TURNED OUT TO BE ITS SEXUAL ORGANS, AND WHAT WAS THOUGHT TO BE ITS HANDWEIGHTS WAS FOUND TO CONTAIN ITS BRAIN!



THE STARTLING DISCOVERY OF A POSSIBLE NEW SPECIES ATTRACTED WORLDWIDE ATTENTION, AND A TEAM OF JAPANESE, AMERICAN, AND BRITISH SCIENTISTS OBSERVED THE CURIOUS CREATURE.



THE INTERNAL ORGANS THEY EXTRACTED BOSE AN EXCESSIVELY CLOSE RESEMBLANCE TO YAKUHEIRO KAWANUISA, A 31-YEAR-OLD TOKYO RESIDENT!



HE USED TO DRAW MANGA FOR "THUNDER BLIND" MAGAZINE, BUT IT'S BEEN SOME TIME SINCE HIS WORK GOT PUBLISHED...



HIS WIFE AND CHILD HAD LEFT HIM, AND NOW ALL HE DID WAS LIE AROUND AT HOME.



THE PAINORS ETCHED DEEP INTO HIS BROW BEFORE HIS DESPAIR.



AS HIS CIRCUMSTANCES GREW INCREASINGLY STRAITENED, HE USED UP THE LAST OF HIS SAVINGS TO VISIT HIS FRIEND, A FELLOW MANGA ARTIST, IN FUKUSHIMA.



IT'S BEEN A WHILE, EFUKU-SAN... COULD YOU GIVE ME SOME WORK?



I'VE GOT ENOUGH ASSISTANTS AT PRESENT, USABAMA.

HE DIDN'T EVEN FEEL LIKE TO THINK ABOUT IT... AND HE DIDN'T REMEMBER MY NAME RIGHT EITHER.



NOW THAT HE'S A BIG-SHOT MASTER, HE HAS NO TIME FOR HIS OLD FRIENDS...

HE SPENT THREE DAYS WALKING BACK HOME FROM FUKUSHIMA, THE PAIN IN HIS FEET GRADUALLY TURNED TO ANGRISH IN HIS HEART...



STILL... THIS IS THE ONLY THING I'VE GOT...



KO-GAL STUFFY
IN THIS
DAY AND
AGE?

MY OLD EDITOR,
KIMMACHI-SAN,
WAS NOW THE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF
YOUNG JOURNALS.
HARD TO BELIEVE
WE'D BEEN SO
TWO BACK THEN...

LISTEN,
USA-
CHAN,
YOUR
ART IS
SO...
PASSE.

HERE,
READ
THIS AND
SLEEP
UP ON
WHAT'S
NOW.

F...
FULL
ON...



AM I
THE
RELATIVE?

LET
ME
SEE

H-HH,
KIDS...
YOU LIKE
THAT
MANGA?

YEAH,
IT'S
SOAL
FUNNY!



HEE
HEE!
LOOK
AT
THIS!

STOP
MOO-
GING
IT ALL!

ALTHOUGH HIS LIFE DID
NOT CHANGE AT ALL
AFTER THAT...

THE DEEP FURROWS
ON HIS BROW
DISAPPEARED...

I
KNOW...

TOMOR-
ROW
I'LL TRY
HITTING
UP
KIMMACHI-
SAN
FOR
WORK...







BYE, MOM AND DAD!



ROCKO LEAVES THE HOUSE EARLY THESE DAYS.

YES, SHE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT TRAINS... WHAT WAS IT? TRANSPORTATION?



LEAVING EARLY TO AVOID RUSH HOUR?

NOT LIKE HER. AND SHE'S BEEN WEARING ALL THAT GOLD JEWELRY LATELY... SOMETHING'S GOING ON.



OH GOD, COULD SHE HAVE SAID...

TRANSACTION?!!



I WAS RIGHT!

SHE'S HEADED AWAY FROM THE STATION...



NOW SHE'S ENTERING A SUSPICIOUS-LOOKING BUILDING...

COULD IT BE... A BODILLOP?



THE... THE DARK-ROOM?



OH-HO-HO... IT'S ONLY A "TRANSMUTATION"...

Transmutation: The conversion of base metals into gold and silver—the chief project of alchemy, a medieval form of chemistry...



THE BIRTH
OF FABLES
ON THE
NIGHT OF
A FULL
MOON...
ACROSS
GALAXY.

ALWAYS
KEPT
HIDDEN
FROM
THE
EYES
OF THE
WORLD,
NEVER
TO BE
SEEN...



BUT NOW...
WELL,
APPARENTLY,
THAT'S JUST
SOME
SUPERSTI-
TION...

DADDY...
WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?
YOU'RE SO
SERIOUS...

WHO'RE
YOU
TELLING
ME THIS
STORY,
ANDRROT?



IT
DOESN'T
HAVE
ANYTHING
TO DO
WITH THAT
CLOSET
WE AREN'T
EVER
ALLOWED
TO OPEN,
DOES IT?

DADDY
?!!



WE FOUND MY TWIN SISTER, BUT WE CAN'T FIND THE KEY TO HER MIND...

SHE'S COMING TO SCHOOL STARTING TODAY.

WHAT THE HELL IS SHE TALKING ABOUT?

HELLO NICE TO MEET YOU... WE HAVE IC RAYS...



SHE'S A LITTLE SHY.

OHGOD. THIS IS TOO CREEPY!

WE REALLY DID MAKE WRONG THESE PAST EIGHTEEN YEARS...

WE WERE SO HASTY. WE SHOULD HAVE CHECKED INTO IT FIRST.





CUT-94

TOMHEI-
SAN,
YOU
LOOKIN' REAL
SWELL.

THESE
DAYS, YOU
GOTTA BE
A BLAR-
ROCKIN'
KINDA
FARMER, IF
YOU WANNA
SURVIVE.

YEP, I'M
TALKIN' ABOUT
AESTHESIA
AND
DECADENCE
IN CROP-
GROWIN'...

IS
THAT
RIGHT?

WHERE
YOU
YOUNG-
STERS
GOIN'?

WE ALL
TOMHEI'S
OCCUPIED.

HE
HELPIN'
OUT
IN HIS
FIELDS.

GETTIN'
INTO HIS
LETTUCE
BED.

MAN, I
THOUGHT
YOU ALL WERE
YOUNG'ERS
OCCUPIED
JUST
YESTERDAY.

YEAH, BUT
TOMHEI'S
LOOK IS
FRESHER.

THOSE
YOUNG-
STERS,
ALWAYS
SLUMBY
AFTER THE
HIGHEST
THING...

HEY GONKO,
HOW'S IT
GOING
LATELY
WITH YOUR
BOYFRIEND,
MURPO-SAN?

THE STORY SO FAR: MURPO AND GONKUTO,
DEBATED TO LEARN THAT TWO MALES
CANNOT MAKE A BABY TOGETHER, ATTEMPT
DOUBLE SURVIVE- BUT TRAGICALLY, MURPO
DIES WHILE GONKUTO LIVES...
AT GONKUTO'S FUNERAL, MURPO MEETS
GONKUTO'S SISTER, GONKO-AND LOOKS
SO MUCH LIKE GONKUTO THAT MURPO FALLS
HEADLONG IN LOVE WITH HER, AND THEN...

GONE...

CUT: 95

WHAT'S
THE
MATTER,
YOU
HAD A
FIGHT?

YOU CAN
TELL ME.
WHAT'RE
FRIENDS
FOR?

GONKO
GONKO

WHAATT?
YOU
HAVEN'T
HAD YOUR
PERIOD
IN THREE
MONTHS??

WELL...
THAT'S A
BAD NEWS.
ISN'T IT?

GONKO
GONKO







OK, MR. USA-MARU...
LET'S GIVE
YOU A
SPONGE
BATH.



AAA-
AAA-
GAAAAA-
PLAAAA



THAT
OLD
MAN
WAS
MY
VERY
FIRST
PATIENT.



OH, NO!
MR.
USAMARU!
WILL
YOU
PLEASE
STOP
DRAWING
ON
THE
WALLS?

HE'S SO
SENILE,
I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
TO DO
WITH HIM.

AND
PAINTING
OVER
THOSE
PICTURES
IS SUCH
A PAIN.

CUT-98



HE USED TO BE
A CARTOONIST,
APPARENTLY...

OHHEL...
SO
THAT'S
WHY...



YOU KNOW, WHEN
HE SEES
ME, HE ALWAYS
SMILES
REAL
HAPPILY
AND
GIGGS...

AAA-
AAA-
GAAAAA



WHO'S
"MAL-
CHARM"?

I
DUNNO...



THE DOCTOR SAID TONIGHT WOULD BE CRITICAL...

HMM... HE IS REALLY OLD...



I'LL SEE YOU, FOLKID, SOOO LUCKY!

YEAH... THANKS!



I'LL TAKE OVER NOW.

THANKS, DEAR.



I WONDER WHAT KIND OF NAVIGA HE USED TO DRIVE...?



...HE'S DOING ALL ALONE, WITHOUT ANY FAMILY OR ANYTHING...



UM...



WAKING THIS LIGHT...?



I WON-
DER...
WHAT
I SAW
THAT
NIGHT
WAS
JUST
AN
ILLU-
SION...?



A FEW
MONTHS
LATER,
I FOUND
MR.
USA-
MADU'S
MANGA
IN A
USED-
BOOK
STORE.



HEY,
THIS
GUY
LOOKS
JUST
LIKE ME!
THAT'S
WHY HE
KEPT
CALLING
ME
"TAM-
CHAN"...



AS I
CON-
TINUED
READ-
ING...



WHAT?
IS

NO
WAY!

THAT'S...
AM?

BUT
HOW...?



FIFTY
YEARS
AGO,
LONG
BEFORE
SOME
SENILE,
HE MUST
HAVE
WANTED
TO LEAVE
BEHIND
THESE
WORDS...



MR.
USA-
MADU

TO YOU,
WHO STAYED WITH ME
UNTIL THE VERY END.

THANK YOU





Afterword

Three years ago, when I had a series in *Gara* magazine, I was approached by

Mr. Shimada of *Young*

Sunday, and the two of us

got all excited discussing the creation of a series about Leonardo da Vinci. I started collecting research materials and developing ideas for the story... but the project was nixed, and after a number of revisions I found myself starting a manga series on *ku* girls—a subject poles apart from da Vinci. At first I heeded to Mr. Shimada's views and kept it light, pop, and sexy, but change crept in by degrees until, by Volume 2, odd people and weirdos stood out, giving headaches to Mr. Shimada and his successor, Mr. Adachi. Sorry about that.

Thank you to D, who worked as my assistant

I would also like to express my gratitude to Kazuo Umezu, who so graciously consented to my parody of "Makoto-chan", to Motuhiko Kyogoku, who kindly lent me "Hankyoku-san", to everybody in the editorial department of *Young Sunday*, and to Abe-san of *Toshimaru*

Thanks also to Koyama-san, Odagiri-kun, Seshida-san, Kusumoto-kun, Kawamura-kun, Yamaguchi-san, Kanto-kun, and Kusano-kun

And finally, to all of you readers who bought *Short Cut*, I send my love and gratitude

Usamaru Furuya

CUT-100!



TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

By Akemi Wegmuller

Cut-4: "Tenboku" is a sacred river to Shinto, while "Goran" is a Buddhist monastery. So I suppose these two old men symbolize traditional Japanese values, which are being trampled underfoot by ke-gals, but the names will probably be meaningless to most non-Japanese readers (they're even kind of arcane for young Japanese). Japanese today eat much more meat, eggs and dairy products than their ancestors ever did, as a result of which young Japanese are now on average about a foot taller (I think) than people a couple generations older. At 5'1", I stand taller than many middle-aged men.

Cut-3a: Kannon (Kanyin in Chinese) is always female in Japan, which kinda contradicts what's happening here. A bodhisattva, she is the deity of infinite compassion (alluded to in the punchline). Anyway, sometimes she's represented with many arms and this is called a Thousand-Armed Kannon. (I guess Furuya had to use Kannon, because no other deity is depicted in this way.) An offertory is a wooden box placed in front of the deity at temples. People throw in money as an offering when making prayers.

Cut-6a: Kimuro Takuya of SMAP, or "Kimotaku" as he's called, is of course one of Japan's most popular male babies. Takashi Sorimachi, known universally by his last name, is another gorgeous and popular hunk.

Cut-12: Enka is a genre of popular music based on traditional-style melodies and

singing techniques. Favored by older people and country folks, it's kinda like Japanese Nashville, also in terms of lyrical content.

Cut-20: In the Japanese, Setan speaks in the Osaka dialect, which as I explained way back in Volume 1 (Cut-19), is associated with comedians. Well, that cut featured Yasushi Yokoyama of the Yasushi-Kiyoshi comedy duo, and as it happens the other half of that duo, Kiyoshi Nishikawa, has been a Diet member now for some time. When he first campaigned for office, he was asked what a comedian could possibly do in politics and his response was "You gotta start small and keep at it." This became the catchphrase of his campaign.

Cut-21: Kiripachi-sensei was a very popular TV series in the 1980s starring Tetsuya Takeda. The full title was Soranen Sugumi Kiripachi-sensei (meaning he was in charge of Class B, third year). It is one of a long line of *gakuen drama*, or high school dramas, featuring inspiring and likable teachers. Kiripachi-sensei was very gung ho and caring, and always managed to solve problems and get everybody involved.

Cut-23: *Junkissa*, or "pure colosseums," are from a bygone era, though you still see some in operation (very quaint, dating from decades ago). I think they have the "pure" in their title to indicate they don't serve alcohol...but I'm not sure about that. Anyway, the owner of such an establishment is always

called "master." This whole manga harks back to a happy, wholesome era that today you see only on TV (just like the *Beaver/Father Knows Best* filters for Americans). In cafeterias today, you tend to be served by surly part-timers, everyone reads their own business, there's none of the banter you see here. The girls know only this impersonal version and have never been in a honey little cafe like this, run by the owner without help.

Cut-38: "Cosplay" is a long-term favorite to otaku, referring to dressing up in costume, whether as manga or anime characters at conventions or as a nurse, dominatrix, etc., in the bedroom. *Comiket* is a big self-published manga, or *dōjinshi*, convention held every year in Japan.

Cut-43: The man in the last panel is Mr. Matsugane, who had a weekly TV show. He lives in Hokkaido with all kinds of animals and is known nationwide as an animal lover (even of "gross" or "scary" animals). But I think the cut works without this reference.

Cut-45: "Offbeat" is what I came up with for *isarenteki*, which could also be rendered as "unique," "original," or "different." It's the tag that's given to actors and other "talents" that don't fit the mold of cute/beautiful/handsome. Sort of like "character actor." For example, George Clooney is your good old-fashioned leading man, but Billy Bob Thornton would be *isarenteki*, or *isarente*. Here, the Zaps are probably a reference to Speed, which comprised three really cute/prety girls and one rather plain girl who always had the weirdest hairdos and costumes of the bunch.

Cut-47: "Takuya" is Kimura Takuya (a.k.a.

Kimotaku), like Takenouchi a super-hunk actor.

Cut-51: In Japanese elementary schools, lunch is served in the classroom and children eat at their desks. There are no cafeterias, and children are not allowed to bring their own lunch. According to my encyclopedia, Allied Occupation introduced a nationwide school lunch program in the immediate postwar period, when there were massive food shortages, and this was made permanent with the School Lunch Law of 1954. This, of course, makes "Hori-chan" an anachronism. For historical accuracy, she should have been in the classroom for 54 years max (1945 to 1999, when this cut was first published), not "over 65 years." Perhaps some schools had a school lunch program also before the war? Also, note the reference to "powdered skim milk." Hori-chan was in first grade in the mid-1930s. In contrast, Minako has bottled whole milk. As for the punchline, we discover Minako is a call girl who is sent out to hotels, where customers check into a room on their own, call the service, and wait. The guy obviously wanted a korgol, not a 46-year-old dressed up as one. Minako is desperately trying to convince customers she's a real korgol: she cooked up this story for that purpose.

Cut-52: In Japanese, the term *kakushi-dan* ["hidden camera"] usually refers to perverts taking sneak pictures of girls' underpants etc. I don't quite know how to make that come across in English, though.

Cut-55a: The last line of the poster is a deliberately "Japanese-English" ad slogan. The original is all English, in katakana: "Let's Enjoy Your Life!" This is of course a spoof of bad Japanese-English copy.

Cut-56: In Japanese, surrealism is “*shousu meizaiamu*,” from the French pronunciation, and “*shuusui*” for short. So the Japanese is a pun of sorts: “*Shuusui Kaifu*” vs. “*Shohto Kaifu*,” both starting with “*sh*” followed by a long vowel.

Cut-58: As I explained in Volume 1, “*ko-gal*” is a small “gal,” the latter being female college students, who were the big phenomenon of the ‘80s. So graduating from high school automatically means you’re not a “*ko-gal*” anymore—while “*gals*” are obsolete. Also, the standard Japanese come-on (the equivalent of “*Wanna spend some time?*”) is “*How about a cup of tea?*” If you don’t know that, it’s hard to figure out why the guy gets so excited.

Cut-61: The punline [“*Ko gal Motel*” vs. *Roach Motel*] doesn’t work, I think. Are there any similar products with a better name? In Japanese, it’s *gobibun* *hachoi*, and while *gobibun* doesn’t sound anything like *kogyaru*, the first two *katakana* are the same, with only the quote-like sign moved from the first *katakana* to the second, so visually it works.

Cut-62: “*Humaneage*” is the literal translation of Usamaru’s Japanese, and is a deliberate contrast to “*birdcage*.”

Cut-63: “*Toyoseta*” is (Hiroshi) Toyokawa, a heartthrob actor from the early ‘90s. She prefaced this remark with “I know this is old, but . . .” (I cut that), meaning the TV drama she mentions was on several years before this manga came out.

Cut-68: “*Maybe we oughta make french*

with her” I couldn’t find a better way to put this, but it should be clear this is out of guy. Like, Hironuma’s so on the brink they want to bring her back. “I’m really psychic and see things a lot” it’s not “seeing things” like imagining, but she actually sees . . . what? Ghosts, phantoms, specters?

Cut-70: “*Face!*” in *kendo* (Japanese fencing) it’s the rule to call out “*men!*” (mask) when you go for the face. I think if your opponent manages to strike you on your face-guard, he wins.

Cut-72: The only place I know with the *rita* tradition is Chozemon, though there are probably others. I looked up the Mito River (Mitokawa), but couldn’t find it anywhere.

Cut-73: I suspect these gal sent in by Young Sunday readers and weren’t actually commissioned by Usamaru. For what it’s worth, panels 2 and 4 seem to have been drawn by girls.

Cut-76: Another one of Usamaru’s liddle show spoofs, this time a crab show (making all kinds of things). The title, which I rendered “*Let’s Make It*,” has a similar double-entendre with the original Japanese, which comes out as “*We can do [make] it/We might get pregnant*.” The characters, which I didn’t rename, seem to be variations on Nagpo-san (Mr. Toll) and Gontokun, with the to being read by its alternative reading, *buto*, which means “*for*” or “*thick*” and probably refers to his big organ. I would rename Nappo-san “*Mr. Bean*,” because he’s toll and thin like a string bean, but can’t for obvious reasons, and I couldn’t think of anything else. Of course, he could be renamed anything, e.g., “*Clyde*.” Gontoku-kun could be “*Dickie*.”

Cut-77: *Kyojin no hashi* (Star of the Giants) was a popular baseball anime on TV in the '70s, and you get an idea of the gung-ho earnestness of that show from the voices heard offstage. The whole point of this cut is the absurdity of this pitcher having a ko girl sister I put "sixty years ago," as Usamaru had it, but I don't think they had TV in Japan in 1939, which is sixty years before this was published.

Cut-79: The pictorial style is typical of coloring books from the '30s or '40s. The language used is also from that era, more or less.

Cut-84a: Although readers will recognize "NHK" from the kiddie-show spoofs, I added "the national broadcasting corporation" to make it clear this is government-sponsored public TV.

Cut-85: I guess she's dumped Yutaka and Tokuya because this is Takeshi Kaneshiro, yet another heartthrob actor. "We'll never have exams again!" she actually says "we won't have finals either," because the Japanese school year starts in April, and I think the first semester ends in September, i.e., after summer vacation. But this seemed hard for American readers to understand, the probable response being "but finals are BEFORE summer vacation!"

Cut-88a: The "klik" is one of camera shutters (you see the two flashes). I didn't get it at first that the "dissection" consisted of removing the black socklike thing he's wearing under the shell...but, that of course being the animal's "skin," Yoshiro Kawamura is the internal organs.

Cut-90: I think this one's hopeless. The whole cut, not just the punchline, hinges on the word "cold" or "chilly," which is used a lot recently for jokes that bomb, lame puns, etc. It comes from their getting a chilly reception (no reaction) from their audience, and now it's standard for someone to say *sobu* (a variant of *somu*, from *somui*, or cold) when someone else cracks a dumb joke.

Cut-91: Another hopeless one. It's a three-fold pun. Japanese always abbreviate *kanji* compounds by taking the first character of each word in the compound. Here, the girl is off to "asamen," which everybody knows is short for *asarensu*, or "morning practice" (sports, choir, etc.). The father thinks it stands for *asamen'a*, or "morning love." In the punchline, we find out it stands for *asarenishipita*, "morning sickness." What on earth am I supposed to do?

Cut-94: "Cether" into his lettuce bed? Actually it says, "You need *shimena* to be a grouper." In Japanese, the word for "grouper" is *akabai*, or "chaser," and running around after a star is physically demanding (as is *haidwork*). Since in English, "grouper" connotes more of a trying-to-get-into-bed-with-the-star concern, I changed it this way.

Cut-98: Actually, she calls him "Grandpa," but that's normal in Japan and not so in the West. I thought in a Western hospital she'd call him "Mr. — — —." Of course, it ought to be "Mr. *Funyo*," but hey, Usamaru is Usamaru, right?

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Usamaru Furuya was born January 25, 1968. His path to manga was unusual. He studied sculpture and abstract three-dimensional figures in art school, and afterwards even became involved with butoh dance. For a while he worked as a high school art teacher. He made his debut as a manga artist with the ground-breaking four-panel "gag" strip *Palepoli*, which was serialized in the legendary avant-garde comics magazine *Garo* in 1994. Since then he has gone on to publish in major weekly magazines in Japan, such as *Young Sunday* (where *Short Cuts* was first serialized). In English, his work has appeared in *PULP: The Manga Magazine* and *Secret Comics Japan: A message to American readers from Usamaru Furuya*. "I've heard that 80% of America is made up of anthropocentric and passionate Christians who deny the theory of evolution. Could this be a misconception on my part? I think it probably is. I think there are a great many misconceptions between Americans and Japanese. If only we could overcome these through manga."

Collected Works:

- 1996** *Palepoli* (Seirindō)
- 1998** *Short Cuts* (Shogakukan)
- 2000** *Garden* (East Press)
- 2000** *Usamaru2001* (East Press)
- 2000** *Plastic Girl* (Kawade Shobo)
- 2001** *Marie no Kanaderu Ongaku*
(Music created by Marie) (Sony Magazines)

So just what is it about this fascination with the Japanese teenage girl? We're talking about that extreme variant of her—the highly evolved creature of Japan's frenetically trendy consumer culture, the *ko-gal*. And just what goes on inside a *ko-gal*'s overstimulated mind? In *Short Cuts*, esteemed underground manga artist Usamaru Furuya takes a journey into the world of the *ko-gal*, refracting it through an inevitable collage of styles, innovative layouts, and bizarre scenarios. Not to mention a disjunctive sense of humor to put some of all this nonsense in perspective.

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